



CHAMPIONS TROPHY: BCCI SAYS NO TO PAK TRAVEL, PCB NOT AMUSED

With less than three months to go for the ICC event, the relationship between two subcontinental countries could affect the venue for the event

INDIA PROPOSES HYBRID MODEL AGAIN

Right from the beginning, the BCCI had maintained that the Indian government will take a call on whether the team would travel to Pakistan or not. On Friday, the BCCI reportedly claimed that they had intimated PCB about not travelling and had proposed a hybrid format like the Asia Cup where India played all their games in SL. This time India might opt for UAE

PCB CHIEF NOT FOR ANY HYBRID MODEL

Hours after reports emerged, PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi categorically denied receiving any formal communication from the BCCI. "Till today, no one has discussed any 'Hybrid Model' nor are we willing to talk about it. But we have been showing good gestures for the last few years. No one should expect us to do it all the time," Naqvi said

2008

THE LAST TIME INDIA TRAVELLED TO PAKISTAN FOR CRICKET



ON INDIA, CHINA

Putin acknowledged difficulties on the border between India and China but said wise and competent people who keep the future of their nations in mind, are searching for compromises and will eventually find them

ON BRAHMOS

"In fact, we made it (BrahMos) fit for use in three environments — in air, in sea and on land. These projects, conducted for the benefit of India's security, are ongoing," he said

PUTIN SAYS INDIA DESERVES STATUS OF SUPERPOWER

Cites fastest growing economy, population, culture to make his point

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin sprang a pleasant surprise by saying India deserves to be included in the list of global superpowers.

Putin is among India's closest allies, but seeking to add the country to the exclusive superpower club was a welcome gesture, particularly when even *netas* of the ruling alliance in the country have not sought to give it that spin. India's articulated ambitions at present are to jump from the fifth largest economy in the world to the fourth and third positions, and to get a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

"India should undoubtedly be added to the list of superpowers, with its billion-and-a-half population, the fastest growth among all economies in the world, ancient culture and very good prospects for further growth," he said while address-

VISION BASED ON TODAY'S REALITIES

"Our vision of where and at what pace our relations will develop is based on today's realities. The volume of our cooperation is increasing many times over, every year," President Putin said



ing the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi on Thursday.

Putin also called India a great country, with the largest population of 1.5 billion, and said they were developing relations with India in all directions. Both Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi share great vibes, with the former recently joking at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, "you understand me without a translator."

"President Putin has been extremely positive on India over the past few years and he

has been consistently talking about two great powers — India and China, particularly as economic powerhouses. It's in the same strain that he makes references to Prime Minister Modi. He has also been appreciative of India's independent foreign policy," former Ambassador to Russia P S Raghavan told this newspaper.

Putin said the volume of co-operation between Russia and India is increasing manifold. Talking about the defence co-operation between the two nations, he said, "Look at how many types of Russian military equipment are in service with the Indian armed forces. There is a great degree of trust in this relationship. We don't just sell our weapons to India, we design them jointly."

He referred to the BrahMos cruise missile and said that this was made for use in air, sea and land which has enhanced India's security. "These projects show a high level of mutual trust and cooperation."

Waqf row: FIR against Surya for sharing 'fake' news on farmer suicide

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Haveri

BENGALURU South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has been booked by Haveri police along with two others for sharing a "fake" report related to a farmer's suicide and linking it to Waqf row on social media.

Rudrappa Balikayi, 24, died by suicide in 2022 at Haranagiri village in Haveri district.

The MP shared the "fake" report published by two Kannada digital media platforms on his social media account on Thursday, stating that it was the first death in Haveri due to Waqf row. Local police issued a clarification the same day that the news is false and the farmer ended his life for other reasons.

Along with Surya, the police have booked cases against the editors of the two digital platforms for publishing the report.

A senior police officer from Haveri said Rudrappa Balikayi's father Chennappa filed a complaint stating that his son died by suicide on January 6, 2022, and he had taken loans amounting to Rs 7 lakh. Rudrappa's family was given compensation by the state government then.

The police have launched an investigation into publication of the report related to the 2022

suicide on November 7, 2024, linking it to the Waqf row. Two weeks ago, a group of people attacked a local Muslim leader in Haveri district following rumours that their lands will be taken over by the Waqf Board. This incident has now become an election issue.

Reacting to police action on Friday, Surya, who is in Haveri campaigning for BJP candidate Bharat Bommali, said farmers from Haveri met the visiting JPC chairman and submitted a petition stating that the farmer ended life after learning that his four acres of land had been listed as Waqf property.

"That report was published by media representatives. I posted this on social media so that the government would take action. When I questioned why farmers are being targeted, they filed an FIR against me and the media representatives. The farmer's father stated that his son committed suicide because his land had been listed as Waqf property," Surya said.

"There is a problem with the Waqf Act. We will amend it. We will curtail the Waqf Board's authority. We will protect the interests of farmers of the state and the country," he said.

MORE REPORT: P4



FINAL SITTING

Outgoing Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud with CJI-designate Justice Sanjay Khanna, senior lawyer Kapil Sibal and others at a farewell function on Friday | P1

MODI: CONG TRYING TO DIVIDE OBCs, RESTORE J&K's SPL STATUS

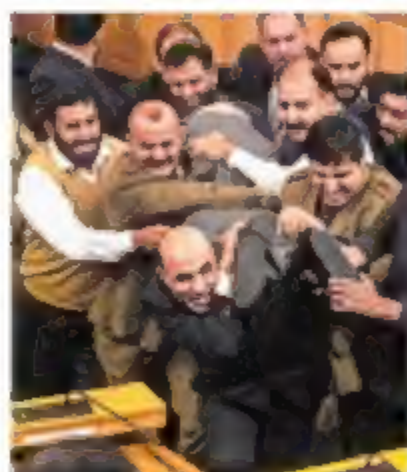
SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday kicked off his campaign for the Maharashtra assembly polls at Dhule, tearing into the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in general and the Congress in particular.

He claimed during the Congress rule, there were two constitutions — one for India and another for Jammu and Kashmir. But the BJP government implemented Dr BR Ambedkar's constitution in Jammu and Kashmir by removing Article 370, which granted special status to the state, he added.

"The Congress was unhappy with this decision. So, it is trying to bring back Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of its ally. However, we will never allow this to happen," Modi said.

Modi's comments came two



BJP MLAs being marshalled out during a ruckus in J&K assembly on Friday | P1

days after the Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir passed a resolution seeking restoration of statehood and special status.

Attacking the MVA in Maharashtra, Modi urged people not to elect 'the corrupt' alliance

which he alleged first illegally formed a government and then looted the state.

MVA is an alliance of Opposition parties in Maharashtra comprising Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) and the Congress.

Modi alleged the Congress wants to create rift among the OBCs by making them fight among themselves. "Congress thinks only when the OBCs are weakened, will the path to power open for the grand old party," he alleged. Modi claimed that this is a strategy followed by the Congress since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Maharashtra is a crucial state to win for the BJP after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Modi, who is scheduled to address 10 rallies across the state, said India's growth story will be incomplete without Maharashtra.

HC quashes proceedings against two ED officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka on Friday quashed proceedings initiated against Deputy Director Manoj Mittal and Assistant Director Murali Kannan of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) based on a police complaint filed by B Kalesh, Additional Director, Social Welfare Department, accusing them of forcing him to name CM Siddaramaiah and others in the Karnataka Mahashila Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam.

Justice M Nagaprasanna quashed the crime as well as the proceedings against them after taking note of a memo filed by the counsel of Kalesh, which stated that he didn't want to pursue the matter.

On July 23, after hearing a petition filed by the two ED of-

ficials questioning the legality of the crime, the court stayed further investigation of the crime and orally observed that no officers will be safe and they will not perform their duties if a complaint was filed against them for discharging their duties.

The ED had registered a case against the officials of the corporation and the Union Bank of India under Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. It had issued summons to Kalesh and recorded his statement. After this, a search and seizure operation was conducted at his office, which brought out incriminating materials disclosing the involvement of several officials.

After the operation, Kalesh filed a police complaint against the two ED officials, accusing them of criminal intimidation and breach of trust.

EXPRESS READ

SC seeks K'taka reply in DA case against DKS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought replies from the state government and DCM DK Shivakumar on a CBI appeal challenging the government's decision to withdraw its consent for probe into a disproportionate assets case against the KPCC chief. The state cabinet on November 23, 2023, held the previous BJP government's move to give consent to the CBI to investigate the case was not in accordance with law | P4

3 get death for raping, killing 8-yr-old girl in M'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

THREE migrant workers have been sentenced to death for gangraping and murdering an eight-year-old girl from Jharkhand here on November 21, 2021. They have been identified as Jayban Adivas, 21, and Mukhesh Singh, 20, from Madhya Pradesh, and Manish Tirk, 33, from Ranchi in Jharkhand. Fourth accused

Muneem Singh from Madhya Pradesh is still absconding. All four were working in a tile factory at Tiruvallu village in Mangaluru rural police limits. The girl's parents were also working in the factory.

Special public prosecutor K Badrinath Nayari told reporters here on Friday that on November 21, 2021, the accused took the girl, who was playing with her brother, to a

remote area after giving her sweets and raped her. They also had unnatural sex and strangled her to death.

"This is the first case where a POCOS Court in Mangaluru has awarded death penalty to the accused," Badrinath said.

Based on a complaint by the girl's mother, the accused were booked under Sections 120(b), 366(a), 376 DB, 377, 302,

and under Section 6 of the POCOS Act. As many as 30 witnesses were examined.

Judge Manu KS of the Additional District and Sessions Court, FTSC - 2 POCOS Special Court, sentenced them on Thursday. The judge also ordered them to pay a fine of Rs 1,20,000 to be paid to the victim's parents. The victim's kin is also entitled to receive a compensation of Rs 3,80,000 from the district legal services authority.

Teacher leaves 11-yr-old boy with broken tooth in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

JAYANAGAR police registered a case against a teacher for allegedly assaulting an 11-year-old boy and leaving him with a broken tooth. The teacher has been identified as Asmat.

According to a complaint filed by boy's father Anil Kumar, the incident took place on Monday around 12.30 pm at the school.

His son's classmates were playing in the classroom, filling water into a bottle. His son complained about this to Asmat, who allegedly hit him with a stick, breaking his tooth.

After getting the boy treated in a hospital, the teachers informed his parents and apologised for the incident. "We have recorded the teacher's statement and released her on station bail," the police said.